

**MINUTES OF MARION CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING**  
**CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**TUESDAY, JANUARY 2015**  
**5:30 p.m.**

A special meeting with Marion City Council and Marion County Council was held on Tuesday, January 12, 2016 in Council Chambers at City Hall. Mayor Bobby L. Davis called the meeting to order. City Council members Ronald Atkinson, Ralph Atkinson, Michael Baker, Odessa Gregg, Emerson Hunt and Joseph Frazier were present, along with County Council members Elista Smith, Buddy Collins, John Q. Atkinson, Tom Shaw, Milton Troy and Simon Jenkins. County Councilman Allen Floyd was not present.

Mayor Davis commented that this meeting was to see if the City and County could come to an agreement on the different amount of fees charged to City and County residents for participation in sports programs. Co. Councilman Collins stated that their request is that the City and County residents pay the same fee. Co. Councilman Tom Shaw commented that some citizens were concerned with the County residents paying \$35.00 and the City only \$20.00 to which Councilwoman Gregg responded that the City residents pay City and County taxes, but the County residents only pay County taxes, which do not help support City facilities they are using. County Councilman Milton Troy commented that Mullins has only one fee, no matter where they live, and they are lower than Marion.

Marion is spending \$538,000 for recreation versus Mullins spending \$250,000. The fees do not cover the cost of uniforms, etc. and the City of Marion pays the balance of what the fees don't cover in order for our kids to have the necessary equipment. Councilman Hunt asked if the County was willing to financially help the City as the facilities are also used by County residents. There are upgrades needed that the City's budget will not cover, including rest rooms at Watsonia.

After more discussion regarding the fact that City residents pay City and County taxes and County residents pay only County taxes. County Councilwoman Elista Smith stated that County Councilmembers need to tell their constituents that the County cannot tell the City what to do or how to operate. She further stated that she know some kids go to Mullins for the lower fee, but the County cannot dictate recreation fees for the City of Marion. County Councilman Troy commented that they should tell kids in the County to go to Mullins and get

the same fee as the City kids. County Councilman John Q. Atkinson commented that driving back and forth to Mullins from Marion to save \$15 will cost more than that \$15 in the long run. He considers this a fact finding mission to see what options there may be. He also commented that several years ago the County looked into starting a recreation program for the County, but the cost was way too high to build and maintain.

City and County Council members continued to discuss this issue regarding fees and Mayor Davis stated that, after research on the number of County kids participating in our recreation programs, it would take \$4,200 from the County to drop the fee for the County kids to the same fee as the City kids. Our gyms are open after school and in the summer and kids from all over Marion County use them at no charge.

County Councilman Collins commented that the County Council needs to sit down and discuss this among themselves, that if the County will kick in \$4,200, then the fees for County residents will drop to \$15.00. They will see what they can or cannot do. Co. Councilman Atkinson commented that it's not up to him, Simon (Jenkins) or Tom (Shaw) to be telling our constituents that they need to take their kids to Mullins, that it's free there. Above his pay grade and we don't need to do that. County Councilman Shaw that we need to what we can to save these children and give these children in the County something to do. Mayor Pro-tem Atkinson commented that we also have a summer camp they can come to, free of charge.

County Councilwoman Smith stated that the County Council will go back and discuss this and what we will do. The next joint meeting was scheduled for February 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m., before the City Council meeting.

Mayor Davis made a motion that both City Council and County Council go into Executive Session to discuss Economic Development; motion carried. He asked that all others leave the Council Chambers.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

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Mayor Bobby L. Davis

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City Clerk Pam Jones

Taped: January 12, 2016